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received
JUN 13 2000

June 13, 2000

Docket Clerk
Fruit and Vegetable Programs
AMS, USDA
Room 2525-S - P.O. Box 96456
Washington, D.C. 20090-6456

Re: Docket # FV00-929-2PR

Greetings:

The purpose of this letter is to state my support for the fresh and organic fruit exemption in the proposed cranberry marketing order.

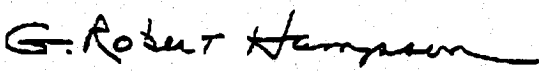
While fresh and organically grown cranberries represent a small portion of the overall cranberry market they are nonetheless an important income producing segment for growers.

As one of America's three native fruits, the fresh cranberry plays an important role in the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays and by its use and exposure in the market provokes interest in other processed cranberry products, such as juice and sauce.

Although the U.S. market for fresh cranberries has remained nearly constant for the past years, there is a clear indication there is good growth potential for exports, which has a positive effect on the U. S. balance of trade deficit.

It will not serve the best interests of the cranberry industry as a whole to eliminate the fresh and organic exemption to the proposed marketing order, therefore I wish to go on record supporting the exemption.

Sincerely,


G. Robert Hampson, III